

REMARKS

Examiner's comments in the Office Action marked "non-final" and dated September 27, 2007 have been read and carefully considered by Applicants. In view of such comments, Applicants have amended the set of claims in the present Application as set forth hereinabove. In particular, original claims 1-17 have been amended, original claims 18-20 have been cancelled, and new claims 21 and 22 have been added so as to better highlight Applicants' proposed invention. In so amending the set of claims, however, Applicants maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly introduced into the present Application. In view of such, therefore, claims 1-17, 21, and 22 remain pending in Applicants' present Application for Examiner's consideration.

At the present time, it is Applicants' good faith belief that the pending claims, as presented herein, are both novel and non-obvious in view of all known prior art and that the claims properly comply with all applicable statutory requirements. Therefore, Applicants respectfully aver that the pending claims now place the present Application in a condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification:

In the present Amendment, Applicants have amended original paragraphs 0001-0003, 0006, 0009-0013, 0016, 0018, 0024, 0028, 0029, 0035, 0041, 0044, 0046, and 0085 in the written specification of the Application. (See amended paragraphs of the specification as set forth hereinabove.) In general, these paragraphs in the specification have largely been amended so as to merely correct punctuation, grammar, or spelling errors and also help improve overall textual clarity in the Application. Therefore, in making such amendments to the specification, Applicants respectfully maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly added to the present Application.

Amendments to the Drawings:

Also, in the present Amendment, Applicants have amended drawing Figures 1, 5, and 9. (See REPLACEMENT SHEETS for Figures 1, 5, and 9 included herewith.)

In particular, in Figure 1 as amended, Applicants have included an additional feature reference number "14" therein. (See paragraph 0035 in the specification for subject matter support of Figure 1 as amended.) In Figure 5 as amended, Applicants have added new feature reference numbers "74" and "80" therein, and also included an additional feature reference number "52" therein. (See paragraphs 0044 and 0045 in the specification for subject matter support of Figure 5 as amended.) Lastly, in Figure 9 as amended, Applicants have removed two of the feature reference numbers "136" therein, and added new feature reference number "138" therein. (See paragraph 0073 in the specification for subject matter support of Figure 9 as amended.)

Objections to the Drawings:

In the Office Action, Examiner objected to drawing Figures 1-5 and 7-9 for therein utilizing the same feature reference numbers for different objects or components in the drawings, which Examiner suggests is likely to cause confusion.

In response, Applicants have herein amended the first sentence in paragraph 0029 of the specification to better explain Applicants' feature reference numbering scheme as used in the drawings and specification. In particular, as herein amended, paragraph 0029 in the specification now explains that "[i]n the drawing figures discussed [in the specification], the same reference numerals will be used to refer to the same or similar type of components." Thus, in Figure 1, for example, each of vehicle A and vehicle B has its own GPS 12 and two-way radio 14 onboard. By assigning the same feature reference number "12" to the GPSs onboard vehicles A and B, Applicants thereby make visibly clear that each of vehicle A and vehicle B has a similar type of GPS onboard. To alternatively assign different feature reference numbers to the GPSs onboard vehicles A and B would, at a glance, suggest to a viewer of Figure 1 that the GPS onboard vehicle A is of a different type than that onboard vehicle B, which

would be visually misleading. To confirm or correct such a visual impression, the viewer would then have to carefully refer to the written specification, which would be unnecessarily time consuming. Thus, contrary to Examiner's suggestion, Applicants respectfully maintain that assigning the same feature reference numbers to similar types of components better, and more quickly, facilitates a viewer's understanding of the drawings. Furthermore, by assigning the same feature reference numbers to similar types of components in the drawings, Applicants thereby minimize repetitive written descriptions of similar features in the specification, thereby rendering the specification desirably more concise. Lastly, contrary to Examiner's implication, Applicants respectfully aver that many modern patent practitioners assign the same feature reference numbers to similar types of components in patent application drawings per currently accepted practice.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner reconsider and withdraw his objections to drawing Figures 1-5 and 7-9.

Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2:

Also, in the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 2-5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter that Applicants regard as their invention.

In response, Applicants have herein amended claims 2-5 and 8 so as to better point out and distinctly claim subject matter that Applicants regard as their invention. (See amended claims 2-5 and 8 as set forth hereinabove.) Subject matter support for so amending claims 2-5 and 8 can be found, for example, in specification paragraphs 0044-0057 and 0069-0074 of the Application as originally filed and also in Figures 5, 8, and 9. In view of amending claims 2-5 and 8 as such, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's claim rejections be withdrawn.

Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Lastly, in the Office Action, Examiner restricted Applicants under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to pursuing only one of the following claimed inventions: (I) claims 1-17 drawn to an "object relative

status determination system" for a vehicle, or (II) claims 18-20 drawn to a "method of determining object information relative to a vehicle."

In response, Applicants hereby elect to pursue allowance of claims 1-17 (i.e., invention I), along with new claims 21 and 22 herein added. In view of such an election, Applicants have herein cancelled claims 18-20, thereby removing claims 18-20 (invention II) from Examiner's further consideration.

CONCLUSION

In view of the specification, drawings, and claims as amended and also the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-17, 21, and 22 properly comply with all statutory requirements. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's objections and rejections in the Office Action be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be issued for all claims 1-17, 21, and 22.

Also, together with this Amendment, a "Petition for an Extension of Time" (3 months) is being submitted.

Lastly, should Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 433-7200.

Respectfully submitted,

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